FBIS DAILY REPORT

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[DAILY GLEANER 7 Feb]

NEW LABOR MINISTER SWORN IN, GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

Videla Swears In New Minister

PY081547 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1457 GMT 8 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Feb (TELAM)--President Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla (ret) today swore in the new labor minister, Brig Gen Llamil Reston. The ceremony was held in the White Room of government house at 1130. Cabinet Members, armed forces representatives, officials from various ministries, other high-ranking officials and special guests attended the ceremony.

Labor Minister Talks to Press

PY100142 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1930 GMT 9 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb (NA)--Speaking to the press for the first time since he assumed his post, newly appointed Labor Minister Brig Gen Llamil Reston has expressed his readiness to "have a dialog with all" union leaders and businessmen who want to visit him. He also indicated that he will not contemplate any changes in the ministry or in the policy of his predecessor, Gen Horacio Liendo, since "we are all in the same process."

Reston, who assumed his post as new labor minister yesterday morning thus completing President Jorge Rafael Videla's new team, spoke in the evening with reporters accredited to the Labor Ministry.

He also expected Videla to sign the decree yesterday designating Col Americo Daher as the new labor under secretary, and said he does not intend to make substantial changes in his staff. He said: "If the general structure of the ministry has been good with Liendo, there is nothing to indicate that it will not be good with the new minister. It takes much time and effort to form a coherent and effective team, and unjustifiable changes cannot be contemplated.

Reston related his statement regarding his "little affection for changes and spectacular things" in order to prevent "short-term spectacular changes" from being expected of him. He stated: "I will adapt my administration to the guidelines presented to me by the president of the nation, and I have come to defend the interests of all with absolute impartiality."

The new minister also said that he recognizes the importance of journalism, "especially during a government such as this when public opinion is guided to a great degree by journalists' reports."

He said: "I know you have greatly supported the former minister, and also that you have taken him to task when you considered it necessary. I am not one who is afraid of the press because, after all, we are all fulfilling a function and trying to do our best. I feel that criticism, when well made, should not affect anyone."

TAURO-02 LAUNCHING TERMED 'HIGHLY SATISFACTORY'

PY101756 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1710 GMT 10 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Rioja, 10 Feb (TELAM)--The launching of the "Tauro-02" rocket was a success. As the first stage of an aerospace program conducted by the National Commission on Aeronautics and Space Research, the launching took place yesterday at the Chamical Airbase, 150 km south of La Rioja.

Brig Gen Miguel Sanchez Pena, president of the commission, who followed the entire launch from the central command bunker along with the commander of the local air force garrision, Col Carlos Miguel Vasquez, termed the launch "highly satisfactory."

The launch was postponed three times the day before yesterday due to adverse weather conditions and was postponed again yesterday, delaying the liftoff from 0700 to 1200. It was then that the countdown--read out every 5 minutes--reached zero. Then, the director of the launch, Lt Col Miguel Maggi, ignited the rocket. A powerful explosion shattered the "total silence" ordered a few minutes before, a reddish-blue flame lit up the launching pad where the rocket was positioned at an 85-degree angle and a roar and a trail of gray smoke which rose at great speed marked the climax of the experiment, the purpose of which is the observation of the rocket's behavior for later development of higher-performance rockets.

"Although, there are a series of tests which must be evaluated in the laboratory and considering the stage of the experimentation," Sanchez Pena displayed satisfaction with the experiment. Referring to programs to be carried out, he related other Tauro experiments with "200/300" rockets (carrying a payload of 200 kg to an altitude of 300 km) as well as intermediate stages.

CASTRO MADERO DISCUSSES CNEA PROJECTS

PY072154 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1848 GMT 7 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 7 Feb (TELAM)--Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, president of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), has reported that "the national executive branch will approve the Argentine nuclear plan within the next few days." He said: "The future of Argentina in nuclear development is seen with optimism because the national government has put much emphasis on this activity, thus placing the country in an advanced position in this aspect." He added that the CNEA will be affected by the new budget adjustments, "but since all sectors in the country will be affected by that share of sacrifice, the organization I am heading will also be adjusted to those decisions," he said.

Regarding works at the Embalse de Rio Tercero plant, he said that "some points in the contract which were not very clear had to be settled and, now that all those problems have been solved, the project will be put into operation according to schedule. "We are now at a very important stage of the project: the assembling, which has been entrusted to Argentine engineering companies. This is the first time that these companies will participate in assembling a nuclear plant, and with this we will succeed in establishing, once the project is finished, a national technology in the country," he added.

Castro Madero also stated that the works for the exploration and exploitation of uranium in Los Gigantes will be granted before the end of February because "these works are being studied from the technical, economic and financial standpoints of the innumerable offers received as a result of the public bidding held last month." He predicted that the list of specifications for the public call for bids for the exploitation of uranium in Sierras Pintadas will be ready by next March.

Regarding the CNEA's projects for this year in remarks to a local morning paper, Castro Madero stated that (?there are) the Atucha plant and the conclusion of the pool reactor [casa de pileta] and also the decision on four other nuclear plants, especially Atucha II. He said also that the construction of the heavy water pilot plant will begin in Atucha, and that the purchase of a complete plant to be installed in Arroyito, Neuquen, is being negotiated.

GOVERNMENT DENIES ESPIONAGE IN PERU, SAYS CHILE RESPONSIBLE

PA110253 Paris AFP in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Feb 79 PA

[Text] La Paz, 10 Feb (AFP)--Bolivia today denied an alleged case of espionage in Peru and emphasized that the "most affectionate ties" exist between the two countries. Jorge Escobari, Bolivia's foreign affairs under secretary, called a news conference to emphatically state a "categorical rejection of any charges of alleged Bolivian meddling in Peruvian military matters, especially when it concerns strategic objectives very far away from the border between the two sister nations."

The arrest in northern Peru of Genaro Daniel Flores, a Bolivian citizen, on charges of espionage provoked a reaction from Bolivian news media reporting on news from the neighboring country.

Escobari noted that Foreign Minister Raul Bothelho will arrive in Lima within the next few hours to personally explain to the Peruvian Government the true meaning of the reports characterized by the Bolivian under secretary as "false, since a special friendship binds us to Peru." The official charged that the Chilean Government is responsible for "this falsehood against Bolivia precisely on the eve of the 100th anniversary of Bolivia's becoming landlocked."

Escobari noted that a Bolivian border delimitation commission is now in Peru to discuss some issues that are of minor importance since the treaties in effect clearly establish the border between the two sister nations.

The Bolivian official characterized cabled reports on the arrest of Genaro Daniel Flores on charges of spying for Bolivia in Peru as "laughable."

BOLIVIAN CITIZENS IN ARGENTINA, CHILE TO BE REPATRIATED

PY092304 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1918 GMT 9 Feb 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 9 Feb (LATIN)--It was officially announced today that the Bolivian Government has approved a plan to repatriate an undetermined number of Bolivians living in Argentina and Chile.

Under Secretary of Immigration Jorge Galindo said that an interministerial commission will be in charge of transferring repatriates and carrying out the negotiations with officials of the two countries [words indistinct]. He said that in order for them to obtain immediate work in Bolivia, the families repatriated will be those in which the heads of the families have an intermediate technical knowledge.

A similar project was carried out from the Villa Miseria ghetto in Argentina when about 200 Bolivian families were brought to Bolivia in 1977 and allowed to bring personal belongings and other goods duty free.

The Immigration Secretariat said that about 100 families living in Valle de Azapa north of Arica will be repatriated from Chile. The under secretary of immigration said that "the conversations with officials of the Chilean Government have been speeded up because it is important for the country to recover its human resources dispersed abroad."

Bolivia has been trying for the past 5 years to recover thousands of technicians and professionals who left the country for various reasons. The government of former President Hugo Banzer Suarez approved a decree "completely lifting all customs duties and providing all kinds of facilities to Bolivian professionals working abroad."

These measures had an impact on many Bolivians, and now the government of Gen David Padilla Arancibia is doubling its efforts with the "plan for the recovery of human resources."

Transportation will be provided by the state railroad enterprise, which will provide two trains at the Chilean and Argentine borders.

PDC PRESIDENT OUTLINES ECONOMIC PROPOSALS

PY091815 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Feb 79 PY

[Text] In the event the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] comes to power next 9 July [as heard], it will encourage foreign investments with the aim of creating more work opportunities in the country. This statement was made by PDC President Luis Ossio, who also said that the political alliance made with the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] does not at all influence the trend of his party, which is center-left.

[Begin Ossio recording] The most important problem of the country just now is that of creating job opportunities. We should encourage investors to come here in a truly sound and honest spirit to develop our natural wealth, but leave the benefits to the Bolivians by creating job opportunities. [Words indistinct] instead of taking measures of a political nature we will try to create job opportunities so that our foremost problem can be solved: unemployment and the misery of the poorest classes. [end recording]

He stated that international democracy would cooperate in the solution of the economic problem now facing Bolivia, regardless of any sectional interests, if the MNR and the PDC reach the government in the coming elections in July. Ossio said, among other things: My party is in favor of an adequate solution to the problems of the rural workers and the poor sectors; it is against all overweening demagoguery and adjusts itself to the picture of national reality.

PDC President Luis Ossio also referred to the subject of the armed forces in the following way: [Begin Ossio recording] We start from the idea that the armed forces are an important institution for the life of the country. They should be viewed from the standpoint of their real and specific field of activity. In the first place we wish to decide, in agreement with them, their specific mission in the future of the country over the next 20 or 30 years. In this manner we will be able to achieve the strengthening of the nation so that we can successfully face the tasks of reconquering the coast by giving the country the necessary power so that it will have weight in the negotiations to be held on an international, continental, bilateral or trilateral level with Chile and Peru. We can only achieve that if we have a respected, strong and well-organized armed forces working for the future along with the Bolivian people and working for the development of this country's isolated areas, guarding the borders and in all tasks which demand the efforts of all Bolivians. [end recording]

SEVERE FLOODING AFFECTS 40,000 PERSONS

PY091643 Paris AFP in Spanish 1442 GMT 9 Feb 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 9 Feb (AFP)--About 40,000 persons have been affected in Bolivia by the severe floods which have stricken the country, the government reported here today. The rains continue falling in broad areas of the country and, the government added, the armed forces have been mobilized as if on a war footing to help care for the victims. The number of deaths has not been officially established, but unofficial sources indicated that it was about 100. Property damage has been set initially at $80 million.

GOVERNMENT SAYS PLANE WRECKAGE BOLIVIAN, NOT PERUVIAN

PY091805 Paris AFP in Spanish 1728 GMT 9 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 9 Feb (AFP)--The aircraft remains which were discovered in northern Chilean territory, near the border with Peru, belong to a Bolivian plane, according to a report made here today by a government source. In this way, the source denied rumors which stated that the remains corresponded to three Peruvian military planes which disappeared 1 week ago. According to the new reports, the aircraft found in the Putre area, 2000 kilometers north of Santiago, is a Bolivian DC-6 which was lost on 17 June 1978.

CONTRERAS' LAWYER REFUTES U.S. EVIDENCE IN LETELIER CASE

PY081457 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Feb 79 PY

[Text] General Contreras' deputy defense attorney has refuted evidence submitted by lawyer Alfredo Etcheberry. Jorge Balmaceda, deputy defense attorney for Gen Manuel Contreras (ret), yesterday gave the press a set of photo copies of documents with which the defense is trying to prove that certain statements made by U.S. Government attorney Alfredo Etcheberry are false.

[Begin Balmaceda recording] He [presumably Alfredo Etcheberry] has made several statements in an attempt to distort the true situation of the extradition process, the investigation carried out by the president of the Supreme Court and the evidence contained in this extradition process. [end recording]

Balmaceda explained that the clarifying statement is being made at the request of defense attorney Sergio Miranda Carrington, General Contreras and Col Pedro Espinoza to emphasize that the Chilean lawyers involved in the case have not lied as Etcheberry has stated.

[Begin Balmadeca recording] These are risky and dangerous statements. In saying that the Chilean officials have lied in their statements, he has been totally untruthful. The statements of the three Chilean officials and those of all the other officers who have testified in the course of the extradition process are exact, parallel and have proved beyond doubt the truth of the situation without distorting or changing the way in which each one of them had acted. [end recording]

He also explained that Michael Townley, a principal witness in the case being tried in Washington, has made five statements, all of them different. He indicated that in his opinion Townley must be tried for murder because he himself had confessed to having murdered Orlando Letelier.

[Begin Balmaceda recording] In the meantime, Michael Townley has made three [as heard] statements to different courts and each one of these statement was totally different and contradictory to the others. Etcheberry has doubted that Michael Townley could have made these statements, still having a 10-year prison sentence to serve. This is absolutely false. Michael Townley should have stood trial for murder because he had admitted having killed Orlando Letelier and had later tried to implicate other persons in the crime. [end recording]

Balmaceda indicated that the only statement Townley had ever made freely was the one to General Orozco when he was still free and was not being pressured. He emphasized that it is obvious he had been truthful at every opportunity because all other statements were made under pressure from U.S. justice, which was accusing him of crimes committed in 1966.

Balmaceda explained that Townley had tried to sell his soul to the U.S. courts and to a prosecutor of unbridled political ambitions, thus explaining the reasons for Townley's attitude.

[Begin Balmaceda recording] We will try to explain why Townley tried to sell his soul to the U.S. courts. When he was expelled from Chile at the request of FBI agent Robert Scherrer, he was facing a number of trials for falsifying public documents and other charges. Scherrer had asked for Townley's expulsion precisely because he had forged U.S. documents. He did not ask for Townley's expulsion in connection with the Letelier case and it was for the crimes had had committed in the United States that he was expelled from Chile. There are some documents written by Townley himself and which will be submitted in due time to the Supreme Court. In these documents Townley acknowledges that he may be sentenced to life imprisonment or even death. This is why Townley has decided to sell his soul in exchange for a 3-year, 4-month imprisonment. [end recording]

Balmaceda disregarded Etxheberry's statements to the effect that Townley's confession is supported by witnesses, documents and experts' findings carefully counterchecked by the FBI. He indicated that all evidence sent by the U.S. Government is entirely false and this was fully proven by the defense of officers Contreras and Espinoza.

Among other evidence, Balmaceda showed an airplane ticket purchased by Townley under the name of Andres Wilson from the (Val) travel agency. This was confirmed by the agency salesgirl, who said that she had given the ticket to Townley. However, Townley said that the ticket had been given to him by Capt Fernandez Larios.

[Begin Balmaceda recording] This ticket was used by Townley when he traveled to Paraguay on 19 July 1976. However, in his cynical false confession, Townley said that his ticket to Buenos Aires [as heard] had been given to him by Capt Fernandez Larios. Townley said this in each of his five false statements. However, we are proving beyond doubt that this ticket was purchases by him personally from the (Val) tourist agency. [end recording]

Balmaceda also refuted exhibit No 47 of the U.S. Government regarding the obtaining of a false safe-conduct.

[Begin Balmaceda recording] Here we have additional proof of forged documents related to the extradition process. In this safe-conduct the place of residence is given as (Oneo) Street 3599 and the profession of the holder is secretary general of government [as heard]. The safe-conducts issued by the National Intelligence Directorate [DINA] never gave the place of residence of the agent and never mentioned the General Secretariat of the government. [end recording]

Balmaceda also refuted Townley's statement to the effect that the name Hans Petersen Silva had been given to him by DINA before traveling to Washington. In this connection Balmaceda produced a false identity card issued to Mariana Callejas on 17 December 1974 in the name of Ana Pizarro in which the lady's husband's name is given as Hans Petersen Silva. Balmaceda also rejected the claim that Colonel Espinoza had taken Townley to DINA and emphasized that Townley was merely a DINA informant and had never become an agent.

Finally, Balmaceda explained that this and other evidence had been placed in the hands of the defense in the trial of the Cubans which is taking place in Washington, D.C. He added that lawyer Sergio Miranda, who had gone to the United States to cooperate in the case, will return to Chile today.

Further Comments

PY100100 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1836 GMT 9 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 9 Feb (LATIN)--Lawyer Jorge Balmaceda disclosed here today that agents of the dissolved National Intelligence Directorate (DINA) traveled only three times to the United States to meet with Gen Vernon Walters, the CIA deputy director. Balmaceda is defending Gen Manuel Contreras (ret), former DINA director; Col Pedro Espinoza, former DINA operations chief; and Capt Armando Fernandez, former DINA agent, in the proceedings for extradition which are being carried out here at the request of the U.S. Government.

Balmaceda stated at a press conference that "DINA never entrusted Michael Townley with any mission within the United States." Michael Townley is attorney Eugene Propper's state witness in the investigation being carried out regarding the assassination of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his aide Ronnie Moffit.

Lawyer Balmaceda explained that the mission of the DINA agents in the United States was very specific. They were to contact General Walters to obtain from him a list of important U.S. citizens who were willing to aid Chile. He did not, however, specify what kind of aid. Balmaceda noted that the three missions failed because General Walters had retired from the CIA, and since his whereabouts were not known, the agents were forced to return to Chile.

He acknowledged, however, that Townley accompanied Captain Fe[illegible]z to Paraguay as a translator to obtain a visa from the U.S. Embassy in Asuncio[illegible] mission also failed. He added that once he returned to Santiago, Townley w[illegible] of any other mission, but DINA purchased sophisticated electronic equipment f[illegible] had been discarded by the U.S. Armed Forces and which Townley had acquired [illegible] nknown to Chilean intelligence.

RESTRICTIONS ON UNIONS RELAXED; FAVORABLE REACTION [illegible]

PY092050 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1619 GMT 9 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile 9 Feb (LATIN)--The military government today promulgated two decree-laws which provide for the freedom of workers to hold meetings without the need for prior permission and free affiliation and payment of union dues among union organizations. The decrees respond to the concern expressed by hundreds of union leaders at various meetings with President Augusto Pinochet and Labor Minister Jose Pinera. With the publication of these decrees in the Official GAZETTE, the government has taken the first step toward the crystalization of the so-called labor plan announced in January by Minister Pinera. During the next 4 months the government will promulgate other dispositions requested by local union leaders referring to the right to hold strikes and collective negotiations suspended since the military uprising on 11 September 1973 which overthrew the late president Salvador Allende.

Union Leaders React Favorably

PY092051 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpt] Union leaders have reacted favorably to the publication of two decree-laws: one allowing the unions to hold meetings freely and the other establishing the workers' dues to their unions. The decree-laws were published in the Official GAZETTE today.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS U.S. ACTIONS AGAINST SOMOZA

PA091959 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[By Jose Suarez]

[Text] At noon today the Colombian Government expressed its support for the U.S. Government's decision to reduce economic and military aid to Gen Anastasio Somoza's government in Nicaragua.

Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Varagas made statements to the press when leaving San Carlos Palace at noon today. He expressed optimism over the possible outcome of the U.S. decision, which seeks compliance with the Nicaraguan Government's obligation to respect the human rights of the Nicaraguan people. Uribe told Radio Cadena Nacional the following:

[Begin Uribe recording] I feel that following the failure of the conciliation effort (?headed by) the United States, this is a perfectly (?consistent act) and that it is precisely, a response to the report of the Human Rights Commission which stronly condemned General Somoza's government. Therefore, this is a logical consequence of the failure of the conciliation effort (?undertaken) 4 months ago by the U.S. Government in conjunction with other American nations. [end recording]

When asked if Colombia would be willing to sever relations with Nicaragua, the foreign minister said that our country abides by the OAS' inter-American system and virtually ruled out the adoption of a decision in that regard [as heard]. He added that is the U.S. decision has no major effect on the Nicaraguan Government, it will behoove the OAS to study the situation and possibly (?decide) that a different type of effort be undertaken.

ECOPETROL PRESIDENT SUAREZ RUEDA SUBMITS RESIGNATION

PA091218 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota--Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (ECOPETROL) President Ernesto Suarez Rueda has tendered his resignation. After deploring this decision, President Julio Cesar Trubay Ayala accepted his resignation. This is the first important crisis of the current administration's first 6 months in office.

Suarez Rueda resigned because of serious differences with President Turbay's representative in ECOPETROL's Board of Directors.

On his part, President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala deplored Ernesto Suarez Rueda's withdrawal as president of ECOPETROL, but voiced his confidence that he will be able to obtain his collaboration for other future activities.

The resigning ECOPETROL president had strongly criticized the mines minister for not having denounced at the Labor Ministry the collective convention signed with the Workers Labor Union (USO).

Suarez Rueda, who this afternoon made public his resignation letter after the government had already decided to dismiss him, felt that one of ECOPETROL's worst mistakes consisted in maintaining a totally condescending attitude toward the oil workers union. Suarez Rueda also felt that the government was too weak to negotiate with the USO. This view had elicited strong reactions from the Board of Directors and from Mines Minister Alberto Vasquez.

The outgoing ECOPETROL president was also accused today of not having permitted the appointment of the Board of Directors' representatives to ECOPETROL's purchases and bids section.

Additional Resignation Announced

PA091219 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Report from San Carlos Palace by [name indistinct] Torrijos]

[Excerpt] The crisis at the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (ECOPETROL), which was made public tonight with the resignation of Ecopetrol President Ernesto Suarez Rueda, extended when it was learned that the government had also decided to accept the resignation of Daniel (Algur Echelena), who was President Turbay Ayala's personal representative on ECOPETROL's Board of Directors.

Suarez Rueda's resignation had been attributed by [word indistinct] to differences with (Algur Echelena), but the mines minister, who just a few minutes ago entered San Carlos Palace, affirmed today that the ECOPETROL president was resigning for administrative reasons. Nonetheless, the minister defended the resigning officia's conduct and honesty and announced that a new ECOPETROL president would be appointed next week.

Suarez Rueda Explanation

PA091220 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Substantial differences with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's personal representative on the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise's (ECOPETROL) Board of Directors led to the resignation of the president of that state agency, Ernesto Suarez Rueda. He himself confirmed this despite the fact that his resignation letter, addressed to the president of the republic, had said it was necessary for ECOPETROL to have at its head a highly specialized person.

New President Appointed

PA100030 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Alvaro Barrera Rueda, a chemical engineer from Santander, was appointed president of the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL] today. He replaces Ernesto Suarez Rueda, who resigned yesterday.

Alvaro Barrera Rueda, a liberal, has been a professor at the Santander Industrial University. He served as vice minister of education in the Lleras Restrepo administration and took a specialized petroleum course in the United States. Barrera Rueda's professional competence and personal qualities were highlighted by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala when he announced the appointment. Barrera Rueda, who is in Bogota, told Radio Cadena Nacional will take office in the next few hours.

ECOPETROL Crisis Solved

PA102000 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The government today said there is no crisis in the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL] and that fuel production is normal. Mines and Energy Minister Alberto Vasquez Restrepo said that the situation in the enterprise has been completely solved.

Meanwhile, new ECOPETROL President Alvaro Barrera Rueda said today that he plans to begin immediate contacts with the mines minister as a preliminary step to taking office. He will also meet with President Turbay Alaya in the next few hours.

GOVERNMENT LIFTS LOCAL NEWS BROADCASTING RESTRICTIONS

PA100202 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Colombian Government today amended security statutes which restricted news on public order [words indistinct] official communique a short time after the journalist association complained to the president about the restrictions. The government's decision states that starting today news on public order can be broadcast by radio and television stations without any constraint other than the responsibility and patriotism of the broadcasters.

Communications Minister Jose Manuel Arias Carrizosa said today that the restrictions imposed on radio and television stations were not justified [words indistinct]. He added that restrictions on broadcasting news on public order are applicable only in extreme cases and principally when public peace is compromised. He said that since the situation of unrest is not very serious, there was justification in suspending the measures in question.

THREE JOURNALISTS ARRESTED DURING M-19 INVESTIGATIONS

PA101215 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0239 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 9 Feb (EFE)--Three Colombian journalists were arrested today in their homes by members of the military intelligence services carrying out antiterrorist operations.

Jorge Graciano, Jaime Torres and Cesar Vallejo were arrested early this morning without any judicial or military warrant in different areas of Bogota as they were preparing to leave for their jobs. The journalists were taken to the Military Institutes Brigade to be questioned about reports on the M-19 terrorist movement.

The arrest of the journalists coincided precisely with the commemoration of the "National Journalists Day" in Colombia. Graciano and Vallejo were later released. The Colombian Journalists Association and the Bogota Newsmen's Circle, the most important journalist associations of the country, announced that they would issue individual protest notes on the arrest of the three journalists who work for broadcasting stations and newspapers in Bogota.

From newspaper sources it was learned that the association of professionals of different information media in the country may refuse to attend a meeting with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala at San Carlos Palace to celebrate the "National Journalists Day." Finally, it was learned that the whereabouts of Jaime Torres, who writes under the pen name "Antonio" for the newspaper EL BOGOTANO, have not been determined, and no one will say where he is.

Meanwhile, journalist Lara Sanchez, who works for the leftist VOZ PROLETARIA, has been arrested in connection with the investigations of the M-19 movement. He is being kept in custody under an arrest warrant issued by a military judge.

MAJOR OIL DISCOVERY REPORTED IN NORTH

PY091420 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Bayovar, Piura--Energy and Mines Minister Maj Gen Juan Sanchez Gonzalez (ret) reported yesterday that proven oil reserves amounting to 100 million barrels have been discovered in the San Jacinto region, on the border with Ecuador, where Occidental Petroleum is operating. The minister indicated that the oil is of an excellent quality of the API 34 heavy. The first well is already producing 5,000 barrels a day.

This new find opens up encouraging prospects for the Peruvian economy, indicated the minister during an impromptu press conference he gave after the inauguration at noon yesterday of the new phosphate processing plant in the Bayovar complex, 120 km from Piura.

The minister also remarked that there will be a readjustment in the price of gasoline within 3 or 4 months, but the discovery of new fields, the constant increase in production and the reactivation of old wells will tend to stabilize the price of gasoline in the future.

He was asked what the percentage of the readjustment would be. He remarked that Peru is self-sufficient with its daily production of 185,000 barrels, of which the excess of 60,000 barrels is exported. Of this, 40,000 are exported to Japan in payment for the financing of the oil pipeline and the rest to other countries. The oil is sold to Japan at $15.085 per barrel, which will be increased to $16.025 as of September, Sanchez Gonzalez remarked.

BOLIVIAN ARRESTED FOR SPYING AT AIRBASE

PA091320 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0705 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 8 Feb (EFE)--The Peruvian security corps today arrested a Bolivian citizen for spying on an airbase where Peru's jet planes are located, it was reported here today.

Genaro Daniel Flores was arrested while photographing the installations of the Abelardo Quinones base near Chiclayo, some 800 km north of this capital. A security corps spokesman said that the suspect had been under surveillance for 15 days. He had approached the base on a motorcyle on three separate occasions. Flores, 30, said upon his arrest that he is an Argentine citizen, but the police report lists him as Bolivian.

Flores took photographs of the military planes, security installations and antiaircraft equipment at the base. According to reports, several of the Soviet-made Sukhoy-22 and some Mirage-V planes of the Peruvian Air Force are located at this base. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish at 1130 GMT on 9 February states that "it has been reported that several Soviet-made Sukhoy-22 fighter-bombers and some of the MiG-(?23'S) of the Peruvian Air Force are stationed at Abelardo Quinones base."]

The alleged spy will be sent tomorrow to Peru's general counterespionage headquarters in Lima.

In December, the security corps arrested and later expelled six Chilean militarymen and diplomats for spying on the air force installations in Piura and Arequipa provinces, bordering on Ecuador and Chile, respectively.

PRESIDENT VIEWS COLOMBIAN BORDER CONFLICT, NICARAGUA

PA102221 Paris AFP in Spanish 1957 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 10 Feb 79 (AFP)--Today, only 30 days from turning the presidency over to Social Christian Luis Herrera Campins, President Carlos Andres Perez held a news conference in which he analyzed relations with Colombia, the Nicaraguan situation and other subjects.

On Colombia, the social democratic president deplored the fact that the border conflict between the two countries over marine and submarine areas in the Gulf of Venezuela was not solved during his 5-year term. Nevertheless, Perez said that progress was made in the search for a solution. and he expressed the hope that the next administration will reach a satisfactory solution.

Regarding his efforts to bring democracy to Nicaragua and recent reports from Washington that he held a secret meeting with President Anastasio Somoza on the Venezuelan Island of La Orchila in 1968 [as received], Perez said only that he has always tried every means to find a peaceful solution so that the abominable Somoza dictatorship would make way for democracy. He reaffirmed that Venezuela's position on Nicaragua is well known and denied the charge that his government supplied arms to the Sandinist guerrillas. These accusations are not new, he said, and are based on certain U.S. congressional sources.

On domestic policy, Perez announced that the procedural immunity of two politicians who are now in jail for presumed complicity in the kidnaping of U.S. industrialist William F. Niehous will be considered by the Supreme Court because of constitutional loopholes in the case. Salom Mesa Espinosa, from the (non-Marxist leftist) People's Electoral Movement [MEP] and David Nieves, from the extreme leftist Socialist League, were arrested a few months after Niehous' kidnaping in February 1976. Niehous' whereabouts are still unknown. Both suspects are being tried by a military court. Nevertheless, last Thursday the Supreme Electoral Council proclaimed both Mesa Espinoza and Nieves deputies-elect in the 3 December general elections. This could result in their release under parliamentary immunity.

Finally, the president defended his decision on the government's acquisition of the largest Venezuelan private bank, the Banco Nacional de Descuento, which was completed this week because of grave irregularities in its management, he said. He explained that it was decided not to liquidate the bank because this would have frozen $1,395,300,000 (6 billion bolivares), with serious consequences for the country's economy. He said th after averting this catastrophe, the bank will need from 5 to 10 years to recover com letely.

At Miraflores Palace, where this news conference was held, it was projected that President Perez will hold a news conference solely for foreign correspondents on 10 March, 2 days before relinquishing the presidency. It is expected that on this occasion he will summarize the accomplishments of his administration in the past 5 years.

OIL PRODUCTION WILL NOT INCREASE DESPITE IRANIAN SHORTAGE

PA092353 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2001 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[By Jorge Banales]

[Excerpts] Caracas, 9 Feb (LATIN)--Oil authorities have said here that Venezuela, fifth-largest producer and sixth-largest exporter of hydrocarbons in the world, will not increase its production of oil to compensate for a shortage of the product on the world market caused by the political crisis in Iran.

Energy and Mines Minister Valentin Hernandez said yesterday that the proposal submitted by certain industrialized countries that the oil exporters increase production is deserving of study. However, this official, who is usually cautious in his statements, added that such an increase does not seem very feasible for Venezuela.

Retired Gen Rafael Alfonzo Ravard, president of the Venezuelan state petroleum company, said yesterday that we have established a policy of conservation, and our production capacity does not allow for large increases. We believe that despite the situation in Iran, this year we will market the volume that we had previously planned, Alfonzo Ravard said, adding: I believe that the policy of conservation and the maintenance of the same volume of production over a long period is better for the country's interests than increases in production.

Minister Hernandez expressed the opinion that Iran, once it has overcome its present crisis, may develop a different oil policy from the one maintained to the present, and may implement a policy of conservation, in which case it would not maintain its former level of production.

The interruption in the supply of crude by Iran will have a great impact on the oil market since that country was responsible for 14.6 percent of OPEC's exports, the minister added.

Hernandez said that he was very interested in Saudi Arabia's decision to increase production by 1 million barrels a day to compensate for the shortage of oil from Iran, but he noted that Saudi Arabia is selling its extra production at prices that will apply late in 1979; that is, equal to a 14.5-percent increase, as established by OPEC in Abu Dhabi last December.

The energy and mines minister added that some countries will suffer more than others (because of the Iranian crisis), as in the case of the United States, which purchased 900,000 barrels of oil a day from that country, and France and Japan, which also purchased large quantities of oil.

DEPUTY WANTS VENEZUELA TO BENEFIT FROM IRANIAN OIL SITUATION

PA101816 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Democratic Republican Union (URD) Deputy Ramon Tenorio Sifontes will ask for the right to speak during Wednesday's meeting of the delegated [as heard] congressional commission. He will discuss the international oil situation resulting from the crisis in Iran.

Ramon Tenorio Sifontes belongs to the lower chamber's permanent commission on mines and hydrocarbons. According to him, Venezuela is not taking advantage of the changes in the international oil market brought about by the political and religious crisis in Iran.

He added that the mines and energy minister should brief Congress on Venezuela's efforts to take advantage of the situation in Iran, as some OPEC members are doing.

LOPEZ-PORTILLO SPEAKS ON OIL, UPCOMING CARTER VISIT

PA100133 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2036 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[By Marcelo Galan]

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Feb (LATIN)--President Jose Lopez-Portillo affirmed here today that his government's success in energy matters has improved Mexico's negotiating position with the United States. Lopez-Portillo also said his country's oil wealth has given his government the opportunity to improve its trade balance with the United States, with which Mexico conducts 70 percent of its external commercial activities.

The Mexican president met this morning with foreign correspondents at the official residence of Los Pinos. He added that on his agenda of talks with President Jimmy Carter scheduled for next week in this capital he will insist on discussing the two countries' bilateral problems in package form because, he said, all those problems are related rather than isolated.

Carter will pay a 3-day visit to Mexico beginning February and will hold several private meetings with his Mexican counterpart to discuss bilateral and multilateral issues, Lopez-Portillo indicated. According to Lopez-Portillo, they might also discuss the Nicaraguan conflict, but he affirmed that his government will maintain its policy on nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries.

On the subject of oil, the president said that Mexico does not have the capacity to respond to the Iranian conflict, which has led to a reduction of the world oil supply. We hope that by the time Mexico can increase its oil production, the problem in Iran will have already been resolved.

The Mexican Government foresees a 1.25-billion-barrel oil production figure by late 1980, but Lopez-Portillo warned that this production level is meant to meet internal demands and that only the surplus will be exported. It has been estimated that in 1980 this surplus will amount to 1.2 million barrels a day. He commented that an unprogrammed production increase might create economic chaos.

Regarding Carter's visit to Mexico, Lopez-Portillo denied that it would be dangerous. Speaking with other chiefs of state is not dangerous, he said; the opposite is true. His response defined his position regarding the constant criticisms of opposition sectors which have described Carter's visit as a risk for Mexico because of the latter's need for a market for its hydrocarbons. Mexico's potential reserves have been estimated at 200 billion barrels. At present, the United States is the principal buyer of Mexican oil and it wants to negotiate natural gas purchases at a lower price than the $2.60 per thousand cubic feet set by state-owned Mexican Petroleum.

LOPEZ-PORTILLO DISCUSSES GISCARD'S IMPENDING VISIT

PA100134 Paris AFP in Spanish 2006 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Feb (AFP)--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo said here today that French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's upcoming visit to Mexico "will complement" the visit of U.S. President Jimmy Carter slated to take place between 14 and 16 February.

Lopez-Portillo indicated during a news conference that the French president's visit to Mexico will permit Mexico "to diversify its relations and exchanges" in the commercial area. Mexico, it should be remembered, conducts about 60 percent of its foreign trade with the United States.

The Mexican president voiced pleasure over his French counterpart's visit scheduled for 28 February because Giscard d'Estaing's arrival will represent "the EEC's presence on Mexican soil." He also commented that Mexico and France have had relations for a very long time. Lopez-Portillo, who knows the French president personally from the days when both chiefs of state were finance ministers of their respective countries, commented that Giscard d'Estaing is an "extraordinary person." Without providing further details, Lopez-Portillo concluded that aside from commercial topics, there are "numerous matters of interest" in bilateral and multilateral areas that will be discussed during Giscard d'Estaing's visit.

PARTIES SIDE WITH LOPEZ-PORTILLO ON CARTER VISIT

PA112337 Paris AFP in Spanish 2225 GMT 11 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Feb (AFP)--According to statements disclosed today, the attitude that Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo will assume toward U.S. President Jimmy Carter in negotiations for the sale of hydrocarbons has won the unanimous support of the political parties. Lopez-Portillo stated his position during a meeting he held with 31 governors on Constitution Day, 5 February, by saying that "Mexico will use its resources as suits its interests, and only an important reason could change or expand the production program."

To the Mexican Communist Party, "Mexico should not remain a mere energy supplier for the United States or increase its technological and scientific dependence," a statement which according to observers concurs with the spirit of the president's speech. In turn, the Unity of Leftists [la Unidad de Izquierda] stated that it agrees that "we should not change our prevailing position for a plate of beans or permit ourselves to give in for the sake of solving other problems, such as the issue of the undocumented persons." The Mexican Workers Party (non-Marxist left) said "that the United States has every intention of using the subject of the undocumented persons to apply pressure. It seems, however, that the position on this is firm and correct." The Revolutionary Workers Party (Trotskiyite) and the Socialist Workers Party (nationalist left) stated the same view.

In addition to the fact that all of the leftwing parties concurred with the president on his nationalist position, the Mexican Democratic Party (rightwing) also voiced its agreement with what Lopez-Portillo said.

Unanimous agreement with the chief of state has also been shown by trade union groups during demonstrations held here in the past few days.

Everything seems to indicate that the U.S. desire of replacing Iran with Mexico, as some press commentators say, will not materialize. Observers feel that Carter's visit to Mexico will not change Mexico's decision not to increase its hydrocarbon exploitation areas, which is what--it has been stated--U.S. technicians want. In order for Mexico to take the place of Iran as far as oil production is concerned, it would have to overcome its current technical deficiencies, which would lead to considerable dependence on other countries.

Everything leads to the belief, according to observers, that Carter's visit to Mexico will not add anything to the two countries' relations, which have been experiencing some difficulty lately.

ROYO DISCUSSES ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH CUBAN MISSION

FL091130 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Panamanian President Aristides Royo has received a delegation from the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation to exchange viewpoints on possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in various fields of the economy. Royo was interested in the progress of Cuban economic development plans and the possibility of our country providing technical assistance to Panama.

Manuel Torres, vice minister of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and other officials participated in the meeting.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CUBA

PA102020 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] An agreement on agriculture and livestock cooperation was signed last night between Panama and Cuba. Agricultural Development Minister Dr Alfredo Oranges Buston signed the document along with Manuel Torres, vice president of Cuba's State Committee for Economic Cooperation, at the Holiday Inn.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Cuban mission who are in the country at the invitation of the Panamanian Government, Panamanian Deputy Minister Ariel Barnett and other Agricultural Development Ministry officials. Cuban Ambassador Miguel Brugueras del Valle and other embassy officials also attended the ceremony.

Minister Oranges referred to the mutual understanding between the governments of Cuba and Panama, adding that his ministry abides by the desire of the agriculture and livestock sector to maintain a reciprocal understanding for technical-scientific assistance that will benefit both countries. In turn, the head of the Cuban mission expressed his thanks for the kindnesses his mission was shown during its stay in Panama. He also noted that the mission's work week included satisfactory visits to areas of interest.

TORRIJOS TO GO TO JAPAN FOR COPPER EXPLOITATION TALKS

PA100424 Paris AFP in Spanish 0301 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, 9 Feb (AFP)--It was reported here today that Panamanian former Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos, who is now the commander in chief of the National Guard, will go to Japan tomorrow to study various subjects relating to the exploitation of Panama's copper mines.

Torrijos will be accompanied by his personal adviser, Rodrigo Gonzalez Jurado, the president of the Cerro Colorado Copper Corporation, and Maj Eduardo Herrera, his aide-de-camp.

Panama has two copper mines that are not being exploited, one in Cerro Colorado, Chiriqui Province, and the other one in Petaquilla, Colon Province. The exploitation of the Cerro Colorado mine is being negotiated with Canada, and a Japanese enterprise is conducting feasibility studies on the Petaquilla mine.

It has been unofficially reported that Torrijos might take advantage of the trip to visit other Asian nations.

SAMUDIO CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT, DISCUSSES ALLIANCE

PA092345 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Liberal Party President David Samudio today discussed the possibility of an alliance between the National Liberal Party and the Panamenist Party.

In exclusive statements for this station, Samudio criticized the country's legislative structure, indicating that it does not permit economic and political development.

According to Samudio, it is probable that the Liberal Party will not participate in the 1980 parliamentary elections because there would be no guarantees for the opposition parties. During a lengthy interview with this station the Liberal leader suggested a constituent assembly to initiate the country's political, democratic and economic breakthrough.

SANDINIST RADIO STATION REPORTED ACTIVE

PA061350 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[From Milciades Ortiz' "Radioperiodico Conciencia" program]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front has a radio station called Radio Sandino. It disseminates Sandinist ideas throughout a large area in Nicaragua. A Panamanian--whose name I will not reveal because of security reasons--works there. Radio Sandino transmits twice a day because it must keep moving so that it will not be detected by the Somozists. The transmissions are aired on the 41-meter band in the morning and evening hours.

BANANA WORKERS STRIKE SETTLED IN CHIRIQUI

PA111325 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 11 Feb 79 pp A-1, B-7 PA

[Text] A promise by Agriculture and Livestock Development Minister Alfredo Oranges brought an end to a strike by workers at the government's Pacific Banana Corporation's plantation in Puerto Armuelles. The banana workers went on a strike last week to protest what they termed "ill treatment" by the administrative officials, and their refusal to provide the workers with justifiable fringe benefits.

At a meeting with members of the workers' union in Chiriqui yesterday, the minister announced the appointment of a new manager. He is Rafael Morales, who also holds the same position at another state-owned banana producing activity--the Atlantic Banana Corporation (COBANA) in Bocas del Toro.

In addition, the minister pledged to resolve the housing problem for workers at the project, recognized the union as their mouthpiece and assured them they would have representation on the company's administrative board. He urged the workers "to give a vote of confidence to the new manager so that he can make the required adjustments and changes."

Accompanying the minister at the meeting were Gerardo Gonzalez, representing president Aristides Royo; Ministry of Agriculture officials Jerry Wilson, Winston Spadafora and Dr. Rafael Castrellon.

COSTA RICA

INTERIOR MINISTER DENIES BORDER ATTACK REPORTS

PA101500 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey said yesterday that despite reports from Nicaragua that there have been attacks at the border, the best witnesses that this is not true are the OAS observers who transit the area freely and have not noticed any irregular activities. In Nicaragua, first General Evertz and then Foreign Minister Quintana asserted that Sandinist National Liberation Front elements were firing on the National Guard. But this is false, said the minister, and is part of the Nicaraguan Government's plot to internationalize a purely national problem.

GOVERNMENT RESISTS PRESSURE ON PANAMA BORDER ISSUE

PA101951 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The government has reacted sharply to the closing of the inter-American highway on the Panamanian border. The government will not be pressured on the border case. The problem is being negotiated at the diplomatic level. Costa Rica will not take unilateral action. Finance Vice Minister Leonel Baruch has explained the government's attitude regarding the problem on the Panamanian border.

[Begin Baruch recording] After the government took the firm decision to lower taxes and benefit the Costa Rican consumer, a group of national businessmen began feeling the negative effects of the action adopted by the Panamanian customs officials when they suspended the customs courtesy that had been granted to Panamanian citizens at the border. The finance minister met with these businessmen in his office and informed them of the Finance Ministry's stand. Because it is an affair that is also under the Foreign Ministry's jurisdiction, the foreign minister was informed so he could take the proper steps.

The Finance Ministry, in its total respect for the law, will not be pressured into taking arbitrary action. This ministry, taking into consideration the excellent relations maintained between Costa Rica and Panama, will not adopt unilateral measures until it is informed of the results of the talks being conducted at the diplomatic level.

PROTESTING BUSINESSMEN TO CLOSE BORDER WITH PANAMA

PA101459 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Businessmen of the Costa Rican border town of Paso Canoa agreed last night to stop border traffic on the inter-American highway in order to pressure the Carazo administration into seeking a solution to the problem of $25-dollar courtesy permits which the Panamanian Government suspended by not permitting Panamanians to buy in stores on the Costa Rican side. A similar situation has not occurred for the past 2 years and Costa Rican businessmen have experienced heavy losses.

JUDGES DECLARE BANANA WORKERS STRIKE ILLEGAL

PA091505 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpts] The judges of the southern region yesterday afternoon agreed to declare the banana workers strike which started on Wednesday illegal. The judges based their decision on the fact that the workers have not returned to work and are remaining idle. A final decision will be made today at 1700 when the Superior Labor Court will have the last word.

The workers, who are on strike for the third consecutive day, have appealed the case to the Superior Labor Court because they claim the Golfito labor judge should not have ruled on the case due to his economic interests in the company. A top labor leader said that while the judge takes months to solve the workers' conflicts, he takes only hours to solve the problems of the imperialist companies.

Jose Luis Cardona of the banana company stated that once the ruling of the judges of the region becomes final, appropriate measures against the workers will be taken. The banana company has declared that the strike is inflicting heavy losses on the company as well as on the country's economy. The strike committee issued a communique that circulated yesterday. It stated that the workers have reacted to the ruling in a positive manner. It added that the Golfito labor judged had ignored the document issued by the workers in which they asked him to declare himself incompetent to rule on the illegality suit filed by the company. The communique concluded by stating that the Golfito labor judge has ruled against the workers for the third consecutive time.

Situation Calm

PA091507 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey has reported that the situation in the south Pacific region where the banana workers strike is currently underway is completely calm and that so far no incidents have occurred that would imply a future outbreak of violence. The Security and Government Ministry has drafted a working plan with the disputing parties in order to solve possible problems that may occur before having to resort to public force. A liaison committee of representatives of the banana company, the workers union and the ministry has been established to study complaints before they get out of hand.

EL SALVADOR

FPL MURDERS COUNCILMAN, BUSINESSMAN NEAR SAN SALVADOR

Paisnal Councilman Murdered

PA100135 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2253 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Julio Larreynaga Toledo, councilman of Paisnal, 35 km north of San Salvador, has been shot and killed. The Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces [FPL] took credit for the killing in telephone calls made to the news media. Eyewitnesses reported that the shooting occurred Wednesday night when Larreynaga Toledo was on his way from Aguilares to Paisnal. He was riding his motorcycle when ambushed near La Cabana sugar plantation. Larreynaga Toledo's wake was held at the town's municipal building and he was buried today.

Businessman Killed

PA110340 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0047 GMT 11 Feb 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Feb (LATIN)--According to a communique issued by the terrorist organization Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces [FPL], Salvadoran businessman Jose Ernesto Romero was murdered in an ambush staged in the vicinity of El Salvador's university. Seven men armed with pistols fired at the car driven by Romero, who was accompanied by his wife, Ana Reina Lilian Salazar, who was not hurt. The terrorists were driving a station wagon, and after firing their weapons left FPL leaflets attesting to the murder. According to the leaflets, Romero was killed because he dissolved the company labor union "Industrias de Nylon de Centro America" when he was the company's personnel chief.

HONDURAS

FSLN DENIES ROLE IN ATTACK ON GUATEMALAN EMBASSY

PA091701 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1624 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaragua's Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] today delivered a communique to ACAN-EFE in which it denies its participation in an attack carried out on Sunday against the Guatemalan Embassy in this capital. The assailants took certain items which were not too valuable, searched the files and defecated on the ambassador's desk. Certain Honduran papers stated they had received calls from unidentified persons claiming that the FSLN had carried out the attack to protest the Nicaraguan and Guatemalan regimes. In its communique issued today, the FSLN notes that "as the political-military vanguard of the Nicaraguan people, it has no connection with the incident that occurred at the Guatemalan Embassy in Honduras during the weekend, when a group of unidentified persons broke into the embassy for unknown purposes."

The Sandinists criticize what they describe as the "irresponsible way" in which certain Honduran communications organs disseminated the "capricious report connecting the FSLN with the incident in question." The FSLN also states: "We categorically assure the sister country of Honduras and its government that the Sandinist Front does not carry out actions of that kind and much less in Honduras, which has been a country of solidarity."

The FSLN notes that its actions are only carried out in Nicaragua and for political reasons and they regret that "interested sectors are determined to carry out a slanderous and discrediting campaign against the FSLN, but we believe that they are mistaken and are historically condemned to fail."

Finally, the FSLN affirms that its actions are aimed at specific political goals and that it has always "claimed responsibility for its actions."

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA NOT SURPRISED AT U.S. REDUCTION IN AID, PERSONNEL

PA091856 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] A last-minute dispatch reports that Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza has said he regrets the U.S. Government's decision against its old ally, that is, of cutting off all aid and reducing the number of U.S. Embassy personnel. He added, however, that business is continuing as usual in Nicaragua.

In a telephone interview from Managua, Somoza said he was not surprised at President Carter's action, because, he added, they told me when I was negotiating with the international mediators that if I turned down their peace proposals they would cut off all aid.

OPPOSITION CLAIMS POSITIVE REACTION TO U.S. DECISION

PA092036 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Report from Managua by Carlos Chamorro, of Managua's LA PRENSA--presumably recorded]

[Text] [Chamorro] It is still too early to evaluate the consequences of the U.S. Government's measures against Somoza. The impact in Nicaragua, however, has been positive as it is a new element to be added to the crisis already confronted by Somozism. It constitutes a sort of strangulation from abroad at a time when Somoza is confronted with serious problems internally and externally.

The Somoza regime is having serious difficulty meeting its external debt commitments and now it is left without any external resources to help it solve its economic problem. This action by the United States will tend to further strangle the regime. Besides, the Nicaraguan people were expecting a more coherent reaction from the U.S. Government in view of Somoza's intransigent attitude in refusing to accept the plebiscite and in view of his actions in September and November. As I said before, however, it is not possible to evaluate the effects the announce measures will have in Nicaragua, and whether the measures will actually mark a change in the traditional relations between the U.S. and Nicaraguan governments.

[Question] It is reported that the Nicaraguan people expect the United States to file a motion before the OAS condemning Nicaragua for human rights violations. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] It is to be expected that the Human Rights Commission report will be actually brought out and discussed by all governments represented at the OAS, and, as a result, that sanctions will be imposed on the Somoza regime. We have wondered why this report has not been given more publicity inside the United States and in other countries. Anyhow, it is to be expected that the OAS consultation session will discuss the Human Rights Commission report which, as everyone knows, is most devastating regarding the genocidal attitude of the Somoza regime against the Nicaraguan people. This attitude still persists in the country, as the current repression underway in Nicaragua is the same as that in September.

[Question] What type of action is the opposition considering at this time in Nicaragua?

[Answer] Concerning the U.S. announcement, we have not yet learned of any official reaction from the government or the political parties. We do know that there is a movement underway for a greater rapprochement among the different opposition political blocs. We know, for example, that the Broad Opposition Front and the National Patriotic Front are currently discussing coordinating activities against Somozism.

Blow to Somoza

PA091358 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua--A spokesman of the opposition to the government of President Anastasio Somoza has stated that the U.S. Government's decision to drastically reduce economic aid to Nicaragua and withdraw some of its diplomatic personnel is a hard blow for Somoza. Notwithstanding, the Nicaraguan Government has not expressed any immediate reaction to the decision of President Jimmy Carter which includes the withdrawal of 21 Peace Corps representatives that the United States maintained in Nicaragua.

MANAGUA CARRIES WASHINGTON REPORT ON U.S. DECISION

PA101444 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0340 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[By UPI's Adolfo E. Merino]

[Text] Washington, 10 Feb--While the military arm of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza would seem to be stronger, the United States is trying to solve its own foreign policy problems and at the same time weaken the [Nicaraguan] president's political front without pressuring him into a violent exit. In a maneuver that took no one by surprise, the State Department announced yesterday the suspension of military aid to Somoza, the freezing of economic aid, and the reduction in diplomatic and technical personnel in Managua. None of these measures seem to signify a strong attack on the president whose family has dominated the Nicaraguan nation for the past 41 years.

The reason given by the State Department for its action was Somoza's rejection of the plebiscite proposed by the inter-American mediating commission. Spokesman Hodding Carter said that the plan included measures for international direction and of vigilance over the plebiscite. The formula is a legitimate child of the [State] Department and its key word is direction. When it included this word in the plan, the department made the political mistake of allowing Somoza to maneuver and put himself on solid nationalistic ground--which may not hold much water in Nicaragua but does in international public opinion--by rejecting foreign intervention, inter-American or not, in a domestic electoral process, as was proposed by Venezuela. Carlos Andres Perez had suggested free elections supervised by the OAS and three former Latin American presidents.

The statement made by the department seems to be one of the typical internal compromise formulas between forces in that agency attempting to dominate foreign policy. The decision announced by the U.S. State Department is also based on a domestic political situation influenced by Congress, where Somoza has cultivated friends, especially among the conservatives. In fact, some of them alerted the State Department that measures such as the withdrawal of Ambassador Mauricio Solaun or even, as a last resort, the severance of diplomatic relations would cost President Jimmy Carter votes which he needs for more important matters, such as the laws implementing the new Panama Canal treaties, the new relations with the PRC and the strategic arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union.

In contrast to the executive branch, our liberal [word indistinct] including the human rights activities who arrived in Washington with Carter 2 years ago insist on Somoza's ouster at any price. The professionals maintain that the best way is to exert diplomatic pressure. The plebiscite formula was drafted by professionals, but its failure, based on nonpolitical terminology, reinforced the hand of the liberals and the department had no alternative but to try to [word indistinct] with both trends. [passage indistinct]

This is why the statement, in an apparent reference to Venezuela, Panama and Cuba, warns other nations in the region who would contribute to the spread of the conflict.

SANDINISTS LAUNCH NEW WAVE OF VIOLENCE

Attack Eight Towns

PA091942 Paris AFP in Spanish 1814 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 9 Feb (AFP)--Sandinists groups staged attacks in eight Nicaraguan cities last night, engaging in heavy fighting with the National Guard, it was reported here today. Initial press reports indicate that the toll was nine dead and four wounded for both sides.

The heaviest fighting took place in Masaya, 30 km east of Managua, where, according to initial reports, five guardsmen died and two were wounded in clahses in various parts of the city.

The guerrillas held the town of San Rafael del Norte, 190 km north of Managua, for several hours. Two of the attackers and one guardsmen died in the fighting, the press said. There was also heavy shooting in Jinotepe, Masatepe, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Esteli and in Managua itself.

A guerrilla died in Matagalpa, 130 km north of this capital. Guerrillas have tried all week to seize some of this town's districts.

In Masatepe, 45 km south of Managua, military patrols were attacked at various places and, according to reports, a soldier was seriously wounded. The coordinated attacks against eight towns appeared to be a new Sandinist attempt to recreate actions of the September civil war.

Nine Simultaneous Attacks

PA102042 Paris AFP in Spanish 2009 GMT 10 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 10 Feb (AFP)--It was reported here today that 12 persons were killed and 6 wounded as a result of simultaneous attacks launched by Sandinist forces against 9 Nicaraguan towns. Following the attacks, President Anastasio Somoza has ordered the mobilization of various army officers, members of units in southern and western Nicaragua.

Observers believe that the three Sandinist combat forces carried out the joint action to unify their tactics. The three Sandinist factions fighting in the urban and rural areas are known as the Prolonged People's War, Tertiary and Proletarian Front factions. Meanwhile, the Somoza government will officially comment next week on the situation created by the withdrawal of U.S. military and economic aid, particularly in the fields of health, education, agriculture and housing.

Luis Pallais Debayle, President Somoza's cousin and spokesman of the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party, played down the withdrawal of U.S. aid, stating in an informal comment to the press that "the presence of those Yankees caused Nicaragua to make many expenditures." Opposition sectors have commented that the sanctions are too soft and symbolic since they do not decisively contribute to Somoza's downfall.

Government Communique Issued

PA112008 Paris AFP in Spanish 1952 GMT 11 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Feb (AFP)--An official communique reported today in Nicaragua that one army officer and several Sandinists were killed in various flareups of violence in the past few hours. This morning in Leon, western Nicaragua, three young men, reportedly Sandinists, killed Lt Walter Bermudes, a member of the squad that guards the president's office.

It was also reported that several Sandinists had been killed in fighting along the southern border. The name of only one was released. He is said to be Pedro Jose Chamorro Arguello, 24 years old, a nephew of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, whose murder set off a wave of political violence 13 months ago. Pedro Jose Chamorro, the father of the young man reported killed, was also murdered in Managua 1 year ago by an armed group that entered his house. The crime has still not been solved.

EXPERTS SAY VIOLENCE MAY BE RESULT OF U.S. DECISION

PA091938 San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1832 GMT 9 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Meanwhile, several Nicaraguan cities were shaken last night by a wave of violence that resulted in two persons killed and four wounded, including soldiers and Sandinist guerrillas, witnesses reported.

The military authorities have not issued any information on last night's disturbances. Political experts this morning stated that the disturbances are possibly a result of the U.S. decision to suspend economic aid to Nicaragua.

The Red Cross of Masaya, 27 km southwest of Managua, reported that heavy shooting and powerful bomb explosions were heard throughout the night. A Red Cross spokesman said that Red Cross services were not requested by the National Guard or other persons. It seemed as if we were at war because of the heavy fighting that could be heard in various parts of the city, the Red Cross spokesman added.

ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS BLAME CURRENT VIOLENCE ON SOMOZA

PA111846 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1811 GMT 11 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Association of Engineers and Architects (ANIA) has condemned General Anastasio Somoza's Government and blamed it for the current violence in this Central American country.

In a statement released here today, the ANIA Board of Directors vigorously condemns the government for the existing wave of violence, and demands that it listen to the national clamor for liberty and justice and find an immediate and peaceful solution to the crisis that is speedily leading the nation to its total destruction.

The association believes Nicaragua is experiencing the biggest moral, social and economic crisis in its history as a result of the present chaotic political situation that is freezing its growth and reversing its moral and social values to alarming levels.

The architects and engineers add that as those in the community responsible for planning, directing, building and maintaining the nation's physical infrastructure, we cannot and should not remain on the sidelines of this national crisis, especially since it entails massive and growing unemployment in all production sectors.

ANIA asks the people, political parties, professional and trade unions to seek solutions jointly that will save Nicaragua from this chaos and will enable us to attain the goals of peace, liberty, security and opportunity we all desire.

SOMOZA WILL NOT ACCEPT AID FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

PA111826 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1742 GMT 11 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 11 Feb (EFE)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza said today that he will not accept economic aid from communist countries "because those regimes try to change systems of representative democracy."

In statements to the Caracol Radio Network, Somoza asserted that his country has enough international credit to promote national development programs in the wake of the suspension of U.S. economic aid to Nicaragua. General Somoza said he was sorry that North America should have suspended economic and military aid to Nicaragua. "We are very sorry, especially because the people are so friendly toward the United States," he explained.

The Nicaraguan chief of state added that the suspension of military aid does not affect his country at all "since for over 2 years we have not received any help of this kind."

He also dismissed the possibility of talks with President Carlos Andres Perez. "That is newspaper speculation designed to hurt the presidents of Venezuela and Nicaragua," he indicated.

Somoza added that in some respects, Nicaragua faces a serious economic situation, "but those who are experiencing it most are the businessmen who instigated and supported the September strikes."

The president also said that the National Guard controls the public order situation in all of Nicaragua. "What bothers us is the unexpected arrival of subversive groups at our border. They have come to our territory to kill, " he said.

FIDEL CASTRO ADDRESSES PCC NATIONAL MEETING

FL091152 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 9 Feb 79 FL

[Text] A national PCC meeting chaired by the Central Committee was held yesterday at the Karl Marx Theater with the attendance of leaders of the party, government, Union of Young Communists; national, provincial and municipal rank-and-file organizations from throughout the country; and secretaries general of party rank-and-file organizations. Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, gave a detailed report covering the resolutions reached at the seventh Central Committee plenum held last December on the status of the principal economic development tasks and problems, other matters of interest and the fundamental activities of the party, state and people for the immediate future. The proposals of our party's first secretary were approved unanimously at the meeting, which was attended by 4,700 party members.

LUKANOV CHAIRS CONSTRUCTION REVIEW MEETING

FL091123 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Andrey Lukanov, deputy chairmn of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, has chaired a meeting held in Holguin to review the construction status of the Martires del 26 de Julio farm tools complex that is being built with Bulgarian assistance. The Bulgarian leader was accompanied by First Deputy Minister of Machine Building Iliya Kharalampiev, Bulgarian Ambassador to Cuba Boyko Dimitrov and Cuban Iron and Steel Machinery Industry Minister Lester Rodriguez.

MILIAN CASTRO ADDRESSES MEETING ON CANE PLANTING

FL100019 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Arnaldo Milian Castro, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, today made a speech at a meeting held to examine efforts and tasks immediately needed to guarantee the best fulfillment of sugarcane planting through 30 April. The party leader stated that there has been a setback in sugarcane planting, and concrete measures must be adopted in accordance with the types of soil, rainy season and other characteristics of the different canefield areas. Elsewhere in his speech Arnaldo Milian said that we should cultivate with machinery, but that in some areas it will be necessary to plant manually in order to overcome the difficulties created by the rains. In closing, the PCC Politburo member pointed out that we seek to have a modern type of agriculture which will produce high yields, and in this area the most advanced type of cultivation is for sugarcane.

Attending the meeting held in Havana City today were PCC Central Committee members Diocles Torralba, Alfredo Menendez and Rafael Francia Mestre, vice president of the Council of Ministers, chief of the PCC Central Committee Sugar Industry Department and minister of agriculture, respectively. Others present were provincial and national leaders of the sugarcane agriculture sector.

REPORT ON FORESTED AREAS, NEW PLANTINGS

FL081936 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Pinar del Rio has the largest territory covered with forests in the country, with more than 22 percent of its total area. Pinar del Rio Province is followed by Holguin, with a territory of over 190,000 hectares of natural woodlands.

This represents 21 percent of its total area. The third place in the country is held by Matanzas, which has an extensive area of forests with 20 percent.

All of these figures are the result of a national policy based on establishing large nurseries and reserving areas for reforestation. Over the last few years more than 700 million trees have been planted in Cuba, which is 30 times greater than what was planted during the pseudorepublic.

The sector responsible for promoting, protecting and using forest resources for public benefit is the forestry sector. [sentence as heard] This sector of the national economy is a dependency of [words indistinct] and forestry use [words indistinct] which includes among its plans the continuing expansion of forest areas throughout the country.

ASSOCIATION OF HAVANA CITY THEATERS ESTABLISHED

FL082314 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 8 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of culture, has presided at the official establishment of the Association of Havana City Theaters. In a speech at the event, Hart recalled the meetings he conducted in December 1976 with a large group of theater representatives, during which the possibilities of improving theater performances as well as ideas for developing the theater and creating a favorable mentality in this connection were discussed.

Hart explained that in recent months the ministry has made great administrative and organizing efforts directed at examining accomplishments of past years and preparing plans for the 1981-1985 5-year period and future plans through the year 2000. Hart also referred to the importance of establishing this cultural entity, which groups the capital's theaters. He added that this is part of the ministry's policy of increased strengthening of the people's government local organs.

Hart explained that with this decentralization the cultural sector will continue to be as responsible for theatrical activities as it was before, but it now will do it through the people's government provincial cultural network. He noted that in undertaking this task, whose preparation will be conducted with determination and perseverance, the unresolved details of installations and equipment for our theaters as well as training artistic, technical and administrative cadres must be looked into very carefully. We ask for understanding in this respect because the culture ministry will not be able to ideally solve these problems in a short period of time, he added. However, step by step we can make progress and create as we go. We have made some progress in certain aspects, he said in closing.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROTOCOLS SIGNED WITH BULGARIA

FL101323 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Protocols on cooperation between Cuba and Bulgaria in the fields of agriculture and food industry have been signed in this capital. The convention on agriculture calls for cooperation in economy matters, especially in organizing and standardizing work, mechanization, plant disease, hydrology, soils and fertilizers.

The document dealing with the food industry covers the development of the meat industry, especially research, and the industrialization of tobacco, fruit and vegetables.

AGRICULTURE TALKS CONTINUE IN PANAMA

FL101314 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The delegation from the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation which is visiting Panama has met with top officials from the Agricultural Development Ministry to agree on an exchange of technical assistance between the two countries. At the meeting the Cuban and Panamanian delegates examined the points dealing with an agreement on technical assistance between the agriculture ministries of the two countries. The Cuban mission, which arrived in Panama City one week ago, is headed by the vice minister of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation and by other officials from the Agriculture Ministry.

FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION RETURNS FROM EAST BERLIN

FL101932 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 10 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The delegation from the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples which participated in the meeting of the World Peace Council has returned to our capital from [East] Berlin. The Cuban delegation was headed by Elena Gil, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the aforementioned movement. The World Peace Council held its meeting between 1 and 5 February in the capital of the GDR.

BULGARIAN MINISTER TOURS MATANZAS PROVINCE

FL082106 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2038 GMT 8 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Vasil Tsanov, minister of Bulgarian agriculture, has toured the "Victoria de Giron" citrus enterprise in the Matanzas Province municipality of Jaguey Grande, where he was interested in its production. The Bulgarian minister praised the linkage of students' studies with work, and he was briefed on soil characteristics, possible agricultural plantings and on other tasks and topics relating to Matanzas citrus agriculture.

HAVANA RADIO NOTES CHANGE IN U.S. NICARAGUA POLICY

FL091120 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The trinational commission headed by the United States that has been mediating the Nicaraguan conflict has admitted that its efforts have been in vain and has suspended them, North American State Department spokesman Hodding Carter has announced in Washington. The spokesman announced the withdrawal of the U.S. military mission in Nicaragua, an end to military aid, reduction of economic assistance, withdrawal of the so-called Peace Corps and a reduction of diplomatic personnel in Managua.

The mediation commission, composed of Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and the United States, had made efforts since last October to find a solution to the crisis without altering the current government structure.

The Group of 12, the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, the Labor Federation and other progressive organizations repudiated this alleged mediation. And--just as they charged at the time during the almost 4 months used by the mediators until their current failure--the mediators gave time to the Somoza regime to reinforce the National Guard by increasing its units and improving its weapons.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GROUP OF 12 DELEGATION DISCUSSES NICARAGUAN STRUGGLE

FL091223 Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Seven members of the Group of 12 who are visiting this country have declared that this revolutionary group and the other Nicaraguan progressive, democratic and revolutionary forces remain firm in their purpose of deposing the government of Anastasio Somoza. They added that in the face of last year's attacks by opposition forces, it was thought that the Somoza regime would be deposed. They explained that there has been cohesiveness and unity in the Nicaraguan people's struggle, and that the people have struggled in an extremely heroic manner and with abundant firmness. They said that the Nicaraguan Government has remained in power for such a long time in spite of the great struggle that the people have waged to free themselves because of the unconditional support it has received from the U.S. Department of State.

Dr Carlos Tunnerman, official spokesman of the Group of 12, made the statements during a press conference held in a hall of the San Geronimo Hotel.

JAMAICA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON MASSOP KILLING

FL101435 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Feb 79 p 15 FL

[Text] Dead men DO tell tales, after all. The bodies of Claudius Massop, Grevor Tinson and Lloyd Nolan tell their own story. The three men whom the police say were killed in a "shootout" last Sunday bear the evidence of massive wounding, much of it at close range. There are more than 40 gunshot wounds in Massop's body, over 20 in Tinson's and ten in Frazer's. [names as published]

The official police version claims that the taxi in which Massop and three companions were travelling was stopped by them at Marcus Garvey Drive. Massop, they say, then got out of the vehicle and proceeded to fire at them. They "returned the fire," killing Massop and his two companions. The fourth man escaped. He is Mr Samuel Evans, taxi driver. He denies that there were any weapons in the party and claims that the three slain men were gunned down by the police as they stood alongside the vehicle with their arms raised above their heads.

When the GLEANER called Deputy Commissioner of Police Arthur Richards yesterday afternoon for permission to get a photograph of the car in which the four men were travelling, the request was refused. Deputy Commissioner Richards said: "I can't allow it." The GLEANER understands that the taxi is at the central police station, East Queen Street.

Meanwhile, the GLEANER was told yesterday that Massop knew that he was marked for death. "There is a price on my head.... I hear some police are out to get me." So said Claudius Massop exactly two weeks ago. His landlady told the GLEANER yesterday that she had collected rent from Massop on Wednesday, January 24. She reported that Massop seemed pre-occupied and then told her of having heard of the threat against his life. He insisted to her that he wasn't worried. He was "clean." He had not done anything. But then he remarked that perhaps his work with the peace movement had made him a target; he said that he had been warned that the police might kill him that weekend. He was wrong. Claudius Massop died under police guns ten days later.